

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of processing particles classified into separate size ranges in an impactor, each size range of particles being in one of a plurality of separate impactor compartments supported ~~onside~~ by side on a common compartment manifold supported in the compactor, comprising the steps of moving the compartment manifold and supported separate compartments from the impactor as a unit to a service manifold overlying all of the compartments and securing the compartment manifold and service manifold together, adding a solution for dissolving material into each of the compartments through passageways in the service manifold, and simultaneously moving the compartment manifold and service manifold as a unit under power to enhance dissolution of particles in each compartment.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 including removing a liquid sample from the compartments in the compartment manifold after moving the manifolds.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 including the steps of connecting a separate valve having an inlet leading to each compartment, drawing the sample into a passageway connected to the respective valve, and discharging the sample in the respective passageway through a separate port on the respective valve.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 including moving the compartment manifold to clear the service manifold after the simultaneous moving, and providing a power actuator for moving the compartment manifold onto an impactor for an impaction cycle of particles provided.

5.(Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of moving the compartment manifold and service manifold as a unit comprises placing the compartment manifold and service manifold as a unit onto a support pivotable about an axis and rocking the support about the axis with the compartment manifold secured to the service manifold.

6.(Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 wherein the compartment manifold and service manifold are secured together for the simultaneous moving, and subsequent to removing a liquid sample, introducing a wash liquid into the compartments through ports of the service manifold and washing the compartments.

7.(Previously Presented) The method of claim 6 including rocking the compartment manifold containing wash liquid for washing about an axis to agitate the wash liquid, draining the wash liquid, and adding a rinsing liquid to each of the compartments through the service manifold.

8.(Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 including draining the rinse liquid from the compartments, and introducing a flow of dry gas through the service manifold to dry surfaces of the compartments.

9.(Original) The method of claim 8 including removing the compartment manifold from the service manifold after providing a flow of dry gas and connecting the compartment manifold to an impactor cover forming passageways for carrying a flow of a gas carrying particles to be analyzed for impacting particles into each of the compartments.

10.(Original) The method of claim 9 including providing an inlet dose of a gas carrying particles to be analyzed to an inlet of the impactor cover.

11.(Withdrawn) A method of processing particles classified into a separate size ranging from an impactor housing having a plurality of separate impactor compartments comprising impactor cups, a common impactor cup manifold supported on the impactor housing and having a plurality of impactor cups supported on the impactor cup manifold and each impactor cup positioned to receive particles classified by the impactor, a service manifold of size to receive and overlie the impactor cup manifold when the impactor cup manifold is removed from the impactor housing, a support for the service manifold mounting the service manifold about an axis which permits rocking the service manifold, and a plurality of connections to the service manifold for providing ports opening from the service manifold to each of the cups in an impactor cup manifold supported on the service manifold, the method including the steps of:

a) classifying particles in the impactor housing as to size so that at least some of the impactor cups contain particles;

b) removing the impactor cup manifold, the plurality of impactor cups and particles deposited in the impactor cups from the impactor housing;

(c) connecting the impactor cup manifold to the service manifold with the service manifold supported on the service manifold support;

(d) introducing through the ports in the service manifold a solvent in each of the impactor cups; and

(e) simultaneously moving the service manifold and the impactor cup manifold supported thereon in the

service manifold support as a unit about the axis to enhance dissolving particles in the impactor cups.

12.(Withdrawn) The method of claim 11 including the further step subsequent to moving the service manifold and impactor cup manifold, of holding the service manifold in a position about the axis which inclines impaction surfaces in each of the impactor cups to cause liquid in the impactor cups to drain to a side of the respective impactor cups, and removing a liquid sample from each of the impactor cups.

13.(Withdrawn) The method of claim 12 wherein the step of removing comprises providing an outlet passage from each of the impactor cups, subjecting the outlet passage to a vacuum and trapping a known volume of a liquid removed from each of the impactor cups in a separate passageway external of the impactor cup manifold.

14.(Withdrawn) The method of claim 13 including the step of moving the trapped liquid in the separate passageway to a discharge location.

15.(Withdrawn) The method of claim 11 wherein there is an induction port removably connected to an inlet opening in the impactor housing through which a gas carrying particles to be classified is passed, and including removing the induction port when the impactor cup manifold is removed from the impactor housing, moving the induction port to a processing station, positioning the induction port such that the induction port will retain liquid, introducing liquid solvent into the induction port, and rocking the induction port about an axis to cause particles in the induction port to be engaged by the liquid.

16. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 15 including the step of removing a liquid sample after the induction port has been rocked to cause dissolving of particles.

17. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16 including the step of draining the induction port after removing the sample, and washing the induction port by introducing a wash liquid into the induction port and rocking the inlet throat about its axis.

18. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 17 wherein the impactor housing includes a preseparator housing connected to the impactor housing, the induction port being connected to an inlet of the preseparator housing, and including the steps of separating the induction port and the preseparator housing from the impactor housing and from each other, transporting the induction port and the impactor housing to separate supports capable of rocking the induction port and the preseparator housing, respectively, about separate axes, introducing solvents into the induction port and the preseparator housing, and rocking the induction port and preseparator individually and separately to enhance dissolving particles within the induction port and the preseparator housing.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18 including recovering liquid samples from each of the induction port and the preseparator housing after the induction port and preseparator have been rocked to enhance dissolving particles.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 19 including the step of washing the induction port and the preseparator housing with wash liquid while held in their respective supports, and draining wash liquid from the inlet throat and preseparator subsequent to washing.

21.(Withdrawn) The method of claim 20 including the step of moving the impactor cup manifold toward the impactor housing prior to introduction and particles to be classified to the induction port and the impactor housing, moving the impactor cup manifold away from the impactor housing as part of the removing step, shifting the impactor cup manifold laterally of the impactor housing, to a position underlying the service manifold, moving the impactor cup manifold and service manifold into sealing engagement, prior to introducing solvent liquid into the impactor cups in the impactor cup manifold.

22.(Withdrawn) The method of claim 21 wherein the service manifold comprises a first service manifold, and including the step of providing a second service manifold, unsecuring the impactor cup manifold from the first service manifold, and moving the impactor cup manifold and the first service manifold apart, shifting the impactor cup manifold laterally to be in registry with the second service manifold, and introducing wash liquid into the impactor cups in the impactor cup manifold.

23.(Withdrawn) The method of claim 22 wherein the moving of the impactor cup manifold laterally comprises moving the impactor cup manifold with an actuator.

24.(Withdrawn) The method of claim 23 wherein the step of moving the impactor cup manifold and the respective service manifold together comprises moving the impactor cup manifold onto an elevator platform and actuating an actuator to move the impactor cup manifold selectively toward and away from the respective service manifold.

25.(Withdrawn) The method of claim 22 wherein the step of moving the impactor cup manifold laterally of the first service manifold

comprises mounting the impactor cup manifold on an endless belt that is power driven, and driving the belt to move the impactor cup manifold into registry with the respective service manifold, the service manifolds being mounted for movement toward and away from the impactor cup manifold.

26.(Withdrawn) The method of claim 11, wherein the step of introducing solvent comprises injecting solvent by operating a fluid metering device containing the solvent through passageways leading through the service manifold.

27.(Withdrawn) The method of claim 26, wherein the fluid metering device comprises a movable plunger.

28.(Withdrawn) The method of claim 15, wherein the step of removing the inlet manifold comprises gripping the inlet manifold with a grip on an end of a moveable arm, moving the arm to release the inlet manifold from the impactor housing, and shifting the arm to move the inlet manifold to its support.

29.(Withdrawn) The method of claim 11, wherein said manifold is mounted onto a rotary turntable, and the step of moving the cup manifold laterally comprises indexing the turntable between first and second positions.

30.(Withdrawn) In an impactor processing arrangement including an impactor housing, a manifold containing a plurality of impaction cups removably supportable on the impactor housing for receiving classified particles passed through the impactor housing, the impactor housing including an induction port at an inlet thereof, and a preseparator connected to the induction port and to an inlet of the impactor housing, a plurality of service manifolds having ports therein which are positioned to open to cups in the

cup manifold, the service manifolds including devices for supporting the cup manifold on the respective service manifold, a source of a liquid solvent connected through valves to the passageways of one of the service manifolds, sources of wash liquid and gases connected to passageways of another service manifold, the method comprising classifying particles into the cups of the cup manifold, dissolving particles classified into the cup manifold, removing liquid samples subsequent to the dissolving of particles, and washing the cup manifold after the samples have been removed.

31. (Withdrawn) The processing arrangement of claim 30 including removing the cup manifold from the impactor housing and transporting the cup manifold to a first service manifold, securing the cup manifold to the first service manifold, adding a solvent into each of the cups of the cup manifold through respective passageways in the first service manifold, rocking the cup manifold and first service manifold after adding the solvent to enhance dissolution of particles in the cup manifold, withdrawing liquid samples from the cup manifold through passageways of the first service manifold, releasing the cup manifold from the first service manifold, washing the cup manifold at a second service manifold by introducing wash liquid through passageways of the second manifold into the cup manifold, and then draining the cups of the cup manifold of the wash liquid.

32. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 31 further comprising adding an anti-bounce coating to surfaces of the cup manifold by introducing the coating material through a selected service manifold.



33.(Withdrawn) A method of handling and cleaning a housing having a chamber from which samples of interest have been recovered, comprising:

a) supporting the housing on a cradle pivotable about an axis;

b) adding cleaning solution to the chamber in the housing;

c) pivoting the cradle about the axis to move the cleaning solution across surfaces defining the chamber; and

d) removing the cleaning solution from the chamber.

34.(Withdrawn) The method of claim 33 further comprising adding a rinse liquid to the chamber and repeating the pivoting and removing steps.

35.(Withdrawn) The method of claim 34 further comprising sealably covering the cavity before pivoting the cradle, and wherein the removing step includes tilting the chamber to drain liquid material from the chamber.

36.(Withdrawn) The method of claim 33 and covering the housing chamber before supporting the housing on the cradle.